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MR. CHAIRMAN, MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES, MR. CURREN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

IT IS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE THAT I ADDRESS THIS MEETING TONIGHT, FIRST BECAUSE IT ENABLES ME TO TELL YOU AT FIRST HAND WHAT THE PRESENT STATE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE SINCE IT WAS ELECTED TO OFFICE IN MARCH, 1965. SECONDLY BECAUSE IT ENABLES ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING OF THE PLANS WHICH WE HAVE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND ALSO GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER MANY OF THE CRITICISMS RAISED BY OUR OPPONENTS. IT ALSO GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO PAY TRIBUTE TONIGHT TO THE SPLENDID WORK DONE BY MR. REG CURREN, THE MEMBER FOR CHAFFEY, SINCE 1962. MY EXPERIENCE OF MR. CURREN SINCE HE ENTERED THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN THE STATE PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE RIVER MURRAY TOWNS COULD HAVE HAD NO GREATER ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CAUSE AND FOR THEIR PROBLEMS THAN MR. CURREN. AT ALL TIMES IN THE

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PARLIAMENT HE HAS FOUGHT VIGOROUSLY BUT FAIRLY FOR THOSE THINGS WHICH THE PEOPLE ON THE MURRAY WANT FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT, AND ACCORDINGLY MR. CURREN HAS WON THE WHOLE-HEARTED RESPECT OF ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE. AS THE MEMBER FOR HIS DISTRICT, I KNOW THAT MR. CURREN HAS BEEN OUTSTANDINGLY CONSCIENTIOUS IN THE WAY IN WHICH HE HAS DEALT WITH THE DAY TO DAY PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE IN THE LIVES OF ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, AND HERE ALSO HE HAS SHOWN AN ENORMOUS CONCERN FOR THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOM HE REPRESENTS.

SPEAKING AT BERRI AND RENMARK TONIGHT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE AND IS DOING CONCERNING TWO PROBLEMS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO PEOPLE IN THIS AREA. MY MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE WILL SPEAK MORE ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL AND LANDS POLICIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE REFERENCE TONIGHT, FIRST OF ALL, TO THE CHOWILLA DAM, AND SECONDLY TO THE WINE GRAPE-GROWING INDUSTRY.

ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WERE ALARMED RECENTLY BY THE DECISION OF THE RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION TO DEFER WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHOWILLA DAM WHICH WE HAVE SEEN TO BE ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA AFTER 1970. PRIOR TO THE DECISION OF THE RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION, THE WORK WHICH WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PREPARATORY TO THE LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ON CHOWILLA HAD PROPERLY BEEN COMPLETED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS AT ALL TIMES FULFILLED ITS PART OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH, NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA AND OURSELVES, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS DAM. WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASONS PROMPTING THE RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION TO VOTE FOR A DEFERMENT OF THIS PROJECT, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU TONIGHT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS NOT SATISFIED AND WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS GIVEN GUARANTEES THAT ITS WATER SUPPLY WILL BE MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL WHICH WAS EXPECTED WITH THE COMPLETION OF

CHOWILLA. YOU WILL HAVE READ IN THE PRESS THAT I WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEFERMENT OF THE PROJECT BY THE COMMISSION, SEEKING A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE MINISTERS FROM ALL FOUR PARTIES ASSOCIATED WITH CHOWILLA. LET ME SAY THAT SO UNCONCERNED IS THE COMMONWEALTH REGARDING OUR DILEMMA THAT I HAVE NOT TO DATE RECEIVED EVEN SO MUCH AS A SATISFACTORY REPLY FROM MR. HOLT. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE CONFERENCE WHICH I HAVE SOUGHT, AND UNTIL THIS CONFERENCE IS HELD AND WE ARE GIVEN SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVES, THEN WE SHALL NOT REST. IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO ENSURE SATISFACTORY FULFILMENT OF THE AGREEMENT OUT OF WHICH CHOWILLA WAS BORN, THEN SUCH ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

THE OTHER MATTER PARTICULARLY AFFECTING THIS AREA WITH WHICH I WISH TO DEAL TONIGHT IS THE WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY. DURING

THE 1965 ELECTION CAMPAIGN, MY PREDECESSOR, AS LEADER OF THE STATE LABOR PARTY, MR. FRANK WALSH, PROMISED IN HIS POLICY SPEECH THAT HE WOULD, IF ELECTED PREMIER, SET UP A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS OF OVER-PRODUCTION OF WINE GRAPES AND THE CONSEQUENT UNSATISFACTORY PRICES BEING PAID TO PRODUCERS IN THE 1965 SEASON. CONSEQUENT UPON THE LABOR GOVERNMENT TAKING OFFICE IN 1965, THE ROYAL COMMISSION WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED WAS APPOINTED AND RECEIVED SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE WINE GRAPE AND WINE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES. THE COMMISSION BROUGHT DOWN A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH I AM PROUD TO SAY WERE IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENTED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, DUE TO FAILURE IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON PRICES BY THE GROWERS AND WINEMAKERS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO LEGISLATE FOR THE PRICES COMMISSIONER TO FIX PRICES.

THIS HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL, AND LAST YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRICES WERE FIXED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THIS EVENT WAS PRAISED BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND THIS PROMPT ACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD A MARKED EFFECT IN STABILIZING AN INDUSTRY WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THE ECONOMY OF THIS STATE.

IF I CAN NOW SPEAK IN MORE GENERAL TERMS ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST 2½ YEARS, I BELIEVE I CAN SAY WITHOUT ANY FEAR OF CONTRADICTION, THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS EXPERIENCED IN THIS TIME, A SPATE OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF THIS STATE, OR, FOR THAT MATTER, IN THE HISTORY OF ANY OTHER STATE DURING SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. INDEED WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA UP TO DATE WITH THE CONDITIONS ENJOYED BY THE CITIZENS OF OTHER STATES, AND IN MANY AREAS THE BENEFITS GIVEN TO SOUTH AUSTRALIANS HAVE

SURPASSED THOSE ENJOYED BY PEOPLE IN OTHER STATES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MR. LOVEDAY. EDUCATION HAS BEEN GIVEN MORE ATTENTION THAN ANY SINGLE PUBLIC SERVICE SINCE THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE IN 1965. DEMANDS FOR HIGHER STANDARDS OF EDUCATION IN THIS AFFLUENT 20TH CENTURY HAVE PLACED MORE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PROCESSES AND METHODS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAN EVER BEFORE. THE LABOR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THESE NEEDS. IN FACT BEFORE THE LABOR PARTY BECAME A GOVERNMENT, MANY HOURS WERE SPENT STUDYING THE COURSE IT SHOULD FOLLOW WITH EDUCATION IF ELECTED. AS A RESULT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO APPROACH EDUCATION PROBLEMS IN AN ENTIRELY NEW LIGHT WHEN IT WON OFFICE. COMPLETELY NEW TECHNIQUES WERE INTRODUCED AND MANY OLD EDUCATION METHODS WERE MODIFIED AND UPDATED. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, MANY OF THE

DEFICIENCIES IN THIS STATE'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAVE BEEN RECTIFIED. THE NEEDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSTANT WATCH AND THE PUBLIC IS NOW ASSURED THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN WILL LEAVE SCHOOL WITH AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD EQUAL TO THAT OF ANY OTHER CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA. LET US LOOK AT SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION. SOUTH AUSTRALIA SET AN AUSTRALIAN PRECEDENT WHEN THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTED \$577,000 WORTH OF FREE TEXT BOOKS TO STATE AND INDEPENDENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN. ALMOST ALL BOOKS WERE DELIVERED TO SCHOOLS BEFORE THE END OF 1966 ENABLING SCHOOLS TO SAVE A WEEK IN GETTING DOWN TO WORK, WHICH WAS NORMALLY LOST IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL BOOKS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EFFECTS, HOWEVER, OF FREE TEXT BOOK DISTRIBUTION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS THE RELIEF WHICH WAS GIVEN AND IS BEING GIVEN TO LOWER INCOME FAMILIES. TEACHERS AND PARENTS ALIKE HAVE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHEME. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO

SUPPLIED FREE SCHOOL BOOKS, MATERIALS AND STATIONERY, TO SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE IN NEEDY CIRCUMSTANCES.

ANOTHER EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT, GREAT IN ITS IMPLICATIONS, WAS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST STEP OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF EQUAL PAY TO THAT OF MALE TEACHERS BEING PAID FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE PERFORMED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOMEN TEACHERS. INCIDENTALLY, THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE WHERE IT IS RELEVANT. A COMBINED PROMOTION LIST OF MALE AND FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN LINE WITH THE WISHES OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TEACHERS. IN FUTURE, ANY POSITION OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE OFFERED TO THE PERSON WHOSE NAME IS FIRST ON THE PROMOTION LIST REGARDLESS OF SEX.

SUBSIDIES TO SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS

HAVE BEEN INCREASED DRAMATICALLY BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN SUCH SUBSIDIES IN 1965/66, OR FIRST YEAR OF GOVERNMENT, WAS 9.7% AS COMPARED WITH 1.4% FOR 1964/65 - THE LAST YEAR OF THE PREVIOUS PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT. IN 1966/67, THE AMOUNT PROVIDED WAS FURTHER INCREASED, THE ESTIMATES ALLOWING \$499,000, PLUS \$100,000 OF LOAN MONEY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS - AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE OF 20%. THE "FAIR ALLOCATION" SCHEME FOR SUBSIDIES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS DESCRIBED BY MR. KING OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION AS THE BEST SUBSIDY SCHEME OPERATING AMONG ALL THE STATES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS FURTHER MADE MUCH GREATER PROVISION FOR SCHOOL CANTEENS, SWIMMING POOLS, AND ASSEMBLY HALLS, THAN PREVIOUSLY WAS THE CASE. THE SAME APPLIES WITH SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND OVALS. IN ALL THESE AREAS, MUCH MORE ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT THAN WAS HITHERTO PROVIDED, AND ACCORDINGLY MUCH LESS OF A BURDEN NOW

RESTS ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING OUR SCHOOLS. SPECIAL CARE HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN; TRAINEE TEACHERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN LONG OVERDUE PAY RISES - THE FIRST FOR TEN YEARS; THE BONDING CONDITIONS OF STUDENT TEACHERS HAVE BEEN GREATLY RELAXED; MORE STUDENT TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AND ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS IN OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS HAS BEEN VASTLY INCREASED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1966, THE LABOR GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED MORE THAN TWICE THE SUM OF MONEY PROVIDED BY THE PLAYFORD ADMINISTRATION AS ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY, OR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, WHO FACE HARDSHIPS OR DISABILITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE FROM FAMILIES WITH A LOW INCOME AND WHO DID NOT HAVE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS.

SOCIAL WELFARE:

IN THE REALM OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE SICK, THE DESERTED,

THE POOR, THE INCAPACITATED, THE ELDERLY, AND ABORIGINES HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE THOUGHT AND CONSIDERATION SINCE THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE THAN FOR MANY MANY YEARS UNDER THE PREVIOUS L.C.L. ADMINISTRATIONS. WELFARE SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE NOW CONSIDERED BETTER THAN THOSE IN ANY OTHER STATE OF AUSTRALIA. WHEN THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE FROM THE PLAYFORD ADMINISTRATION, WELFARE SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WERE FAR BELOW ACCEPTED AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS. NOW, HOWEVER, MANY REFORMS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED, SOME OF THESE ARE: THE RELAXATION OF THE MEANS TEST ON PUBLIC RELIEF. TELEVISION SETS, WASHING MACHINES, REFRIGERATORS, AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS HAVE BEEN EXEMPTED FROM THE ASSESSMENT IN DETERMINING PUBLIC RELIEF. PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS FOR DESERTED WIVES AND CHILDREN HAS BEEN GREATLY FACILITATED. SINCE THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE, SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENTS

FOR MAINTENANCE HAVE BEEN PROPERLY SERVED AND REGISTERED, AND THE RATE OF RECOVERY HAS BEEN IMPROVED BY BETTER THAN 70%. THIS WAS DONE AS A RESULT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACT BEING APPROVED, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL PROSECUTING OFFICERS, AND CERTAIN CHANGES IN PROCEDURE TO ENSURE THAT JUDGEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE ARE PROPERLY SERVED AND REGISTERED.

A MAJOR INCREASE HAS BEEN MADE IN THE STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND REGIONAL COUNTRY AND SUBURBAN STAFFS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY INCREASED.

PENSIONERS NOW RECEIVE CONCESSIONAL TRAVEL ON RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTRY OR THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS PIONEERED THE BRITISH-SPEAKING WORLD IN INTRODUCING A NEW SYSTEM OF INTERIM

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES. THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED EITHER IN MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS OR AT WORK, NO LONGER HAVE TO WAIT YEARS UNTIL THEIR PERMANENT DISABILITIES CAN BE ASSESSED BEFORE GETTING THEIR DAMAGES AND OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES. UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO APPLY TO THE COURT IMMEDIATELY AND FOR AN INTERIM ORDER TO BE MADE FOR OUT-OF-POCKET AND WEEKLY PAYMENTS UNTIL PERMANENT INJURIES CAN BE ASSESSED.

HOUSING:

IN THE REALM OF HOUSING, YOUR LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE. WE HAVE CONTINUALLY FOLLOWED A POLICY OF DECENTRALIZATION IN THE PROVISION OF HOUSING THROUGH THE HOUSING TRUST, A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PROPORTION OF THE TRUST'S PROGRAMME HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN COUNTRY AREAS THAN HITHERTO.

THERE WAS A 9% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT BY THE HOUSING TRUST IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT, AND A 20% INCREASE IN MONIES ALLOCATED TO HOUSING. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO CURTAILED TO A LARGE EXTENT UNDESIRABLE SLUM INVESTMENT, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS ENABLED PEOPLE ACTING JUST WITHIN THE LAW TO EXPLOIT THOSE ON LOW INCOMES.

TOWN PLANNING:

FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOUTH AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN EFFECTIVE TOWN PLANNING LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT THROUGHOUT THE STATE, OUR CITIES ARE BETTER PLACES IN WHICH TO LIVE, AND IN THIS WAY WE WILL SEE SOME RETURN TO THE VISION OF COLONEL LIGHT. PROBABLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN NO FIELD MORE SO THAN INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION. BEFORE THE

LABOR GOVERNMENT CAME TO OFFICE, THERE WERE MANY INJUSTICES IN THE CONDITIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MALE AND FEMALE WORKING PEOPLE IN COMPARISON TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS INTERSTATE. NOW, HOWEVER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, A MUCH MORE JUST INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION, BETTER APPRENTICESHIP LAWS, VERY MUCH SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY AREAS, AND VASTLY IMPROVED WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PROVISIONS.

SO FAR, I HAVE MENTIONED JUST SOME OF THE VAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. IS IT LITTLE WONDER THEN THAT OUR OPPONENTS, BECAUSE THEY CANNOT QUESTION THE GREAT GAINS SOUTH AUSTRALIANS HAVE MADE UNDER LABOR, ARE FORCED TO ACCUSE US OF FINANCIAL "MISMANAGEMENT", OF CREATING A HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE THAN EXISTS IN OTHER STATES, AND OF

INTRODUCING HIGHER STATE TAXATION THAN EXISTS ELSEWHERE? HOWEVER, THE ARGUMENTS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THESE MATTERS ARE POORLY REASONED INDEED. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE FOREVER TELLING US ABOUT ALL THE THINGS WHICH WE ARE NOT DOING, WHICH WE SHOULD BE DOING, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, ACCUSING US OF DOING TOO MUCH AND CONSEQUENTLY OVER-SPENDING. IN OTHER WORDS THEY ARE SAYING IN THE ONE BREATH " YOU ARE NOT SPENDING ENOUGH, YOU SHOULDN'T BE SPENDING SO MUCH, AND YOU SHOULD BALANCE THE BUDGET." THIS SEEMS TO BE A POOR ARGUMENT INDEED FROM PEOPLE WHO FOR SO LONG ALLOWED CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO BE SO MUCH WORSE THAN THOSE IN OTHER STATES.

ON THE QUESTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MORE IN ITS WORKS PROGRAMME THAN HAS EVER BEEN SPENT BY ANY GOVERNMENT IN THIS STATE IN AN ATTEMPT

TO PROVIDE A STIMULUS FOR THOSE AREAS OF OUR ECONOMY WHICH HAVE BEEN LAGGING. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RECEIVE THE SUPPORT WHICH WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET FROM THE LIBERAL COUNTRY PARTY, COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, WHICH CONTROLS THE PURSE-STRINGS OF THE NATION, AND HAS WITHIN ITS POWER TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT IN THIS STATE. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT THE DIGNITY OF EMPLOYMENT IS PROVIDED FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

GRASP

THE THIRD LEVEL OF CRITICISM FROM OUR OPPONENTS CONCERNS STATE TAXATION. THIS IS AN ARGUMENT WHICH, LIKE THE OTHER TWO, IS COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THE FACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FIGURES READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS SHOW THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIANS ENJOY EASILY THE LOWEST LEVEL OF STATE TAXATION PER HEAD OF ANY OF THE MAINLAND STATES. ONLY TASMANIA IS LOWER AND THAT HAS HAD THE BENEFITS OF A LABOR GOVERNMENT FOR MANY YEARS.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OUR ADMINISTRATION, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE PER HEAD OF POPULATION IN STATE TAXATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THAT WHICH OCCURRED IN EVERY OTHER STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

FINALLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TONIGHT ABOUT THE GREATEST OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF THE PROGRAMME OF OUR GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS ELECTED BY 58% OF THE PEOPLE IN THE 1965 ELECTIONS. I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY A MINORITY OF CITIZENS CONSTITUTING A VERY RESTRICTED FRANCHISE. SO FAR HAS THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEEN FROM A HOUSE OF REVIEW THAT IT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN POSITIVELY OBSTRUCTIONIST EVER SINCE WE CAME TO OFFICE. FOR EXAMPLE, IT REJECTED OUR LEGISLATION FOR ELECTORAL REFORM IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR WHICH WE WON A CLEAR MANDATE AT THE ELECTIONS. IT REFUSED TO GIVE US THE

POWER TO SHIFT THE BURDEN OF TAXATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FROM THE ORDINARY CITIZENS ON TO THOSE WHO SHOULD BE PAYING AS THEY DO IN OTHER STATES. IT THREW OUT THE RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES LEGISLATION WHICH WAS ASKED FOR BY THEIR LIBERAL COLLEAGUES IN CANBERRA, AND IT UTTERLY REJECTED THE FAMILY INHERITANCE BILL WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE JUDGES SUPPORTED BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND DESIGNED TO GREATLY IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED PERSONS. IT ATTEMPTED TO REFUSE SOUTH AUSTRALIANS EFFECTIVE TOWN PLANNING LEGISLATION UNTIL PRESSURES FROM AMONGST ITS OWN RANKS FORCED IT TO CAPITULATE, AND NOW IT HAS THROWN OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE BY COMPETITION THROUGH A STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE, BETTER INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND CONDITIONS AS ARE ENJOYED BY CITIZENS IN OTHER STATES, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAD A CLEAR MANDATE FOR THIS AT THE LAST ELECTIONS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

MUST DECIDE NEXT YEAR WHETHER THEY WANT A CONTINUATION OF PROGRESSIVE AND VIRILE GOVERNMENT, OR WHETHER THEY WISH TO BE CONTROLLED BY WHAT IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN IRRESPONSIBLE POWER CLIQUE REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF ONLY A SMALL MINORITY.

I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT REG CURREN BOTH BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN EXCELLENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE RIVER TOWNS, AND ALSO BECAUSE HE IS VITAL TO A CONTINUATION OF OUR PROGRAMME OF REFORM FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS.
